



Le Métis

EST. 1871

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S BI-WEEKLY NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The elections are complete, and the people have spoken! I congratulate all successful candidates, from incumbents to those who will be joining the leadership of your Red River Métis Government for the very first time. This is an exciting time of renewal, and I know that the newly elected representatives will come to the table with an open mind and a strong sense of dedication to the people who elected them.

I look forward to welcoming each elected official to the governance table as we roll up our sleeves and continue the important work of our Nation. For some, it will be a learning experience to be at the table and begin to understand the scope of our work and how much there is to do. With the many advancements we've made over the last several decades, the responsibilities of leadership have grown, but so have the opportunities to help our Citizens realize their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families, and their community. There is no doubt in my mind that your elected officials will continue this work with the heart and passion of previous Cabinets.

To each and every Citizen who took the time to listen to candidates, read their platforms and head to the polls to cast their vote, I thank you. You

have demonstrated the health and vitality of our democracy and paid respect to all the candidates – successful or unsuccessful – who stood for election. Our Ancestors fought to have our democratic ways enshrined in the creation of this province. When this was not respected by John A. Macdonald and Canada, they didn't give up. They kept the flame of our nationhood alive during the dark times.

Today, to vote in our elections and respect our Red River Métis Government is the privilege of our Citizens, respecting our past and the fight that kept us together as a Nation.

I was so proud of the many Locals that hosted forums in this election. From the North to the South and across this great prairie land that our Ancestors walked, these forums played an important role in the election process of our National Government. While we're in the era of the Internet and many candidates took to social media to outline their platforms, it was the Local-hosted forums that allowed candidates to outline their aspirations for leadership of our Nation and face the electorate in person and answer questions directly from Citizens.

The hard work of our Local leadership did not stop at hosting forums. Not only did they continue to offer programs and carry on Local meetings, many also hosted special events to honour National Indigenous Peoples Day this past Sunday. Selkirk, Roblin, Winnipegosis, The Pas, St. Pierre-Joly, Brandon, and other communities invested their energy and work ethic into keeping our Citizens engaged as they celebrated the day and provided a place for community to connect.

Without question, these past few weeks have given us ample opportunity to appreciate the dedication and efforts of our Locals. It is worth remembering that each and every elected official at the regional and national level has served in Local leadership. Spending time leading a Local is a requirement to run for Regional positions, and it is the proving ground where Local executives can demonstrate their care for our Nation.

The requirement to serve at the Local level before serving at the Regional or National level in our government is a direct result of consultation with Citizens and the shared wisdom of our Elders. Many different kinds of requirements were discussed, including expanded education or a

business background. It was clear during these consultations that Citizens wanted to ensure that the people who sit at the Cabinet table had demonstrated their commitment to our Nation and a willingness to work for our community.

It was clear during these consultations that Citizens felt strongly that Local leadership could not be replaced by anything else. It is through Local leadership that Citizens see the character of the people on their executive and determine if the individuals have the necessary heart for the work.

What this means is that, while some of the newly elected officials may have a lot to learn, there is little doubt in my mind that they will arrive at the table with the right ingredients to be successful. They have all served Citizens at the Local level. All have taken the time and energy to develop their platforms based on what they learned from listening to Citizens. I was also listening at the forums and I can assure all Citizens that I will be bringing your ideas back to the Cabinet table.

As your President, I can say clearly that our unity, our shared focus, and our common goals make all the difference in my ability to provide strong leadership.

From Thompson to Boissevain and all across the heart of our Homeland, Citizens showed why our Red River Métis Government is the most successful Indigenous Government in the country. Your confidence and your willingness to keep fanning the flames of our democracy warmed my heart and renewed my energy to continue leading our Nation into a brighter future.

To all the Citizens who thanked me and expressed their belief in my leadership, I thank you for believing in me the way I have always believed in you.

Until we meet again, I offer my prayers to all our families, Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve. My heart is with the friends, family, and community of our lost loved ones. I ask my people to send prayers to our families and help those who are grieving. I will keep you all in my prayers, as always.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. Q.M. ∞

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TODAY, TO VOTE IN OUR ELECTIONS AND RESPECT OUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF OUR CITIZENS, RESPECTING OUR PAST AND THE FIGHT THAT KEPT US TOGETHER AS A NATION. - MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

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RED RIVER MÉTIS COACH BRINGS PARALYMPIC ATHLETES TO PEAK PERFORMANCE

Kyle Turcotte reflects on his experiences at the 2026 Paralympic Games

Not many people can say they have been to the Paralympics, but Red River Métis Citizen Kyle Turcotte can. For the past 25 years, he has worked as a strength and conditioning coach, which led to his first experience with Paralympic athletes in 2009.

"I think it was Beijing Summer Olympics and Paralympics, a family friend of mine became the head coach of the women's wheelchair basketball program for Canada and he knew my background," said the Citizen. "I was teaching [at] the (University of Manitoba's kinesiology) faculty at that time. He asked me if I would consider the role of strength [and] conditioning coach for his team. That was my intro into Olympic and Paralympic sports."

By 2011, he had left his position at the University of Manitoba, and has been working with Olympic and Paralympic-level athletes ever since.

"I work almost exclusively with curling athletes at this point, so on both the Olympic side and the Paralympic side," he said. "On the Paralympic side, we had a local curler that I started working with that got me into the wheelchair curling program. That's kind of evolved into the role that I have now, which is not only the strength and conditioning coach, but I'm also part of our leadership team with that group."

Working with curlers brought the Red River Métis coach to his first Paralympic Games in March of this year, where Team Canada had ultimate success.

"They didn't lose a single game and came away with a gold medal," Turcotte said. "So that was a (Paralympic) Games... and a performance that I'll never forget."

With the gold medal game tied against China, Team Canada knew one shot would decide who came out with the title. For Turcotte, the tension only grew as the clock counted down before Canada's final throw.

"We were looking back and there was about 30 seconds left and we're like, 'okay, you guys got to make a decision. Someone's got to throw a rock,'" said the Citizen. "[The skip] ended up throwing the rock with 2.8 seconds left when it crossed the hog line, so there was a lot of panic in there about that shot. He ended up actually ticking the rock that we thought was shot rock... It was the most dramatic curling shot that I've seen and been a part of. It was crazy."

The Paralympic Games kept the Red River Métis coach incredibly busy for his 18 days on the job – including working with athletes before their first game even took place.

"During the games, we got into the village a few days before our competition. So, we had the opportunity to take the athletes into the weight room and do a couple of strength sessions with them, which was great," he said. "There's a centralized training facility that all the countries use. We got to go in there with athletes from all over the world... it's kind of nice to see what we're doing is all very similar to what a lot of other athletes are doing."

When the teams are actively playing, Turcotte takes on a different role: collecting data.

"I wasn't even watching our sheet of ice," he said. "I was busy watching another sheet of ice and I was recording rock speeds and how far the rock travelled. So, I think they told me that I collected something like 3,000 data points by the end of the games that helped them then to determine what [the] rocks were doing... it's kind of fun to be able to contribute in a way that was slightly different from my normal day-to-day role."

Having now worked with Paralympic athletes for over 15 years, Turcotte recognizes the immense effort that goes into being a high-level athlete and just how much they should be recognized for their efforts.

"The exposure that they've gotten over the years has improved drastically," he said. "The amount of people that I came home to [saying] that they watched the wheelchair curling final game... surpassed what we would have ever seen in the past."

Urging sports fans to branch out, Turcotte hopes people can "give all sports a chance."

"Give the Paralympics an opportunity and have a chance to check out the amazing performances of these athletes that are working just as hard as any other athlete to excel at their sport," he said.

Interested in reading more about Red River Métis excellence in the world of sports? Check out the Manitoba Métis Federation's Citizen Spotlight page!

“IT WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC CURLING SHOT THAT I’VE SEEN AND BEEN A PART OF. IT WAS CRAZY. - KYLE TURCOTTE



Growing up like "most Canadian kids who played hockey," Kyle Turcotte has turned his lifetime of athletic knowledge into a successful career working as a strength and conditioning coach for Paralympic and Olympic athletes.

RED RIVER MÉTIS HAPPENINGS MARK A WEEKEND OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

This past weekend, your Red River Métis Government put on cultural gatherings across Manitoba – from the 210th anniversary of the Victory at Frog Plain, the Indigenous Reconciliation Gathering at Canadian Forces Base, and National Indigenous Peoples Day festivities.

From June 18-19, a two-day event at the Seven Oaks Monument and Seven Oaks House Museum honoured the anniversary of the Victory at Frog Plain. The first day saw fun activities such as land-based learning, beading, and sash-weaving workshops, and the second day consisted of a commemoration ceremony at the Main Street monument followed by a free barbecue.

Presented by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Southern Chiefs' Organization, and the Manitoba Inuit Association, the Indigenous Reconciliation Gathering was held at Canadian Forces Base on June 20. The day was full of Red River Métis jigging, fiddle performances, and more.

On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Selkirk featured a pancake breakfast, Red River Métis Market, affiliate booths, speeches from dignitaries, and a community barbecue.

The weekend events offered space for reflection, cultural pride, and connection, bringing community members and friends together to honour Indigenous histories, traditions, and contributions.



SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: TANNER ASHAM

Everyone is buzzing about Texas Red's BBQ. What started as a hobby of serving BBQ at family functions, quickly turned into an exciting business endeavour for Tanner Asham. Asham serves slow-cooked meats in delicious barbeque sauce, offering the best BBQ around while incorporating Red River Métis flavours. Asham currently offers catering and is expanding his business this summer with a brand-new food trailer. Find out more about booking Texas Red's BBQ for your next event at facebook.com/p/Texas-Reds-BBQ-61577274128629/.





STE. MADELEINE HERITAGE LOCAL MÉTIS DAYS

JULY 17 - 19, 2026

Save the date for the **Ste. Madeleine Heritage Local Métis Days in Ste. Madeleine, Manitoba**. Join us for a weekend of cultural programming and activities like jigging, fiddling, Bannock-making, cribbage, Youth activities & more!



Visit mmf.mb.ca for more information.